in,

Loaden with irons, wiser than the judge, If wisdom be in suffering. O my lords, As you are great, be pitifully good : Who cannot condemn rashness in cold blood ? To kill, I grant, is sin's extremest gust[8]; But, in defence, by mercy, 'tis most just[9].

words—" more captain." They are supported by what Alcibiadea has already said:

" My lords, then, under favour, pardon me,
" If I speak like a *captain* ."

and by Shakspeare's 66th Sonnet, where the word *captain* is used with at least as much harshness as in the text:

" And captive good attending *captain* ill." Again, in another of his Sonnets :

" Like stones of worth they thinly placed are, " Or *captain* jewels in the carkanet."

Dr. Johnson with great probability proposes to read *felon* instead *offettotv.* MALONE.

The word *captain* has been very injudiciously restored. That it cannot be the author's is evident from its spoiling what will otherwise be a metrical line.. Nor is his using it elsewhere any proof that he meant to use it here. KITS ON.

I have not scrupled to insert Dr. Johnson's emendation, *felon,* for *fellow* in the text; but do not perceive how the line can become strictly metrical by the omission of the word—captain, unless, with Sir Thomas Hanmer, we transpose the conjunction—and, and read :

** The ass more than the lion, *and* the felon ----------."

STEEVENS.

Fellow is a common term of contempt. BOSWELL. s — gin's extremest GUST ;] *Gust)* for *aggravation.*

WARBURTON.

Gust is here in its common sense: the utmost degree of *appe-* titeforsin.* JOHNSON.

I believe *gust* means *rashness.* The allusion may be to a sudden *gust of wind.* STEEVENS.

So we say, it was done in a sudden *gust* of passion. MALONE. 9 —by MERCY, 'tis most just.] By *mercy* is meant *equity* But we must read :

« . 'tis *made* just."

WARBURTON. *Mercy* is not put for equity. If such explanation be allowed,, what can be difficult ? The meaning is, 'I call *mercy* herself to witness, that defensive violence is just.* JOHNS ON.1

The meaning, I think, is, * Homicide in our own defence, by a merciful and lenient interpretation of the laws, is considered asi justifiable.'